10 January 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Honorable Charles W. Robinson

Chairman, NSC Under Secretaries Committee

FROM

Dr. Sayre Stevens

Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT

Deep Seabed Mining Legislation and the International

Law of the Sea Negotiations

REFERENCE

NSC-U/SM-137Q, 3 January 1977

1. The Central Intelligence Agency concurs in the submission of this options paper on domestic deep seabed mining legislation and the ongoing international law of the sea negotiations. In our judgment the paper correctly describes the most important U.S. LOS interests and the possible international ramifications of unilateral actions on deep seabed mining. The essential options have been properly stated and we have no additional information to assist in making a choice among them.

2. As explained in the past, this Agency's collection and operational needs are best served by maintaining maximum freedom of the seas. In our view negotiating tactics that strive to keep the LOS Conference alive with the hope of ultimately attaining a comprehensive treaty are still most consistent with this objective.

SAYRE STEVENS

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